

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

### **Listing of Claims**

1. (Currently Amended) A synthetic polynucleotide comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a codon-optimized human papillomavirus serotype 16 (HPV16) protein wherein said ~~polynucleotide~~ nucleotide sequence comprises codons that are optimized for expression in a human host.
2. (Currently Amended) A polynucleotide according to Claim 1, wherein the protein is selected from the group consisting of: L1, L2, E1, E2, E4, E5, E6 and E7.
3. (Currently Amended) A polynucleotide according to Claim 1, wherein the protein is selected from the group consisting of: L1, E1, E2, and E7.
4. (Currently Amended) A polynucleotide according to Claim 2, ~~which~~ wherein the polynucleotide is DNA.
5. (Canceled)
6. (Currently Amended) A polynucleotide according to Claim 4, wherein the protein is an HPV16 L1 protein.
7. (Currently Amended) A polynucleotide according to Claim 6, which comprises the polynucleotide of ~~FIGURE 1~~ (SEQ.ID.NO: 1).
- 8-9. (Canceled)
10. (Currently Amended) A polynucleotide according to Claim 4, ~~which is~~ wherein the polynucleotide encodes an HPV16 E1 protein.

11. (Currently Amended) A synthetic polynucleotide which comprises a sequence of nucleotides as set forth in ~~FIGURE 2~~ (SEQ. ID.NO:2).

12-14 (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) A synthetic polynucleotide which comprises a sequence of nucleotides as set forth in ~~FIGURE 3~~ (SEQ. ID.NO: 3).

16 (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) A polynucleotide according to Claim 4, wherein the protein is an ~~HPV16E7~~ HPV16 E7 protein.

18. (Currently Amended) A synthetic polynucleotide which comprises a sequence of nucleotides as set forth in ~~FIGURE 4~~ (SEQ. ID.NO:4).

19. (Previously Presented) An adenoviral vaccine vector comprising an adenoviral genome with a deletion in the E1 region, and an insert in the E1 region, wherein the insert comprises an expression cassette comprising:

A) a polynucleotide encoding a codon-optimized HPV16 protein selected from the group consisting of L1, E1, E2, and E7 proteins, wherein said polynucleotide is codon-optimized for expression in a human host cell; and

B) a promoter operably linked to the polynucleotide.

20. (Currently Amended) A vector according to Claim 19, wherein the adenoviral genome also contains a deleted E3 region.

21. (Previously Presented) A shuttle plasmid vector comprising a plasmid portion and an adenoviral portion, the adenoviral portion comprising: an adenoviral genome with

a deletion in the E1 region, and an insert in the E1 region, wherein the insert comprises an expression cassette comprising:

- A) a polynucleotide encoding a codon-optimized HPV16 protein selected from the group consisting of L1, E1, E2, and E7 proteins, wherein said polynucleotide is codon-optimized for expression in a human host cell; and
- B) a promoter operably linked to the polynucleotide.

22. (Currently Amended) A vaccine plasmid comprising a plasmid portion and an expression cassette portion, wherein the expression cassette portion comprises ~~comprising~~:

- A) a polynucleotide encoding a codon-optimized HPV16 protein selected from the group consisting of L1, E1, E2, and E7 proteins, wherein said polynucleotide is codon-optimized for expression in a human host cell; and
- B) a promoter operably linked to the polynucleotide.

23. (Previously Presented) A plasmid according to Claim 22 wherein the plasmid portion is V1Jns.

24-30 (Canceled)

31. (New) A process for expressing an HPV16 protein in a recombinant host cell, comprising:

- (A) introducing a vector comprising the synthetic polynucleotide of claim 1 into a suitable human host cell; and,
- (B) culturing the host cell under conditions which allow expression of said HPV16 protein.